



CRIMPVILLE COMMENTS

PUBLISHER
BELLINGHAM
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

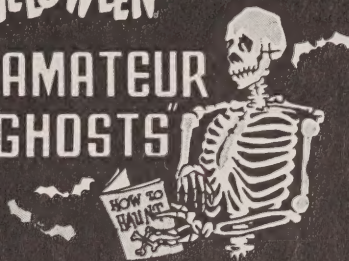
PRINTED BY

THE STUDENTS OF THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY

REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

HALLOWEEN

"AMATEUR GHOSTS"



Jean Brennan
Chairman

OCTOBER
1978



Season of Mists

October is a lover's month because it includes all the seasons, revealing what the years must hold for man and woman—long days of sunshine, obscuring mists, high encounters of winds, cleansing rains and whitening frosts.

—Sir Lawrence Weaver

I don't care who you are, you just can't reach middle age without having done and said a whole lot of foolish things.

— Will Rogers



INSTEAD OF "TRICK OR TREAT", 'T WAS TRICK AND TREATMENT ON THE SEAT OF THE PANTS!

Keep the Letters Coming From Myrtle and Percy Van Note: "We enjoy Crimp-

ville Comments very much and would surely miss them if we did not get them. Many thanks for the excellent job you are doing. As I was born and brought up in Bellingham it holds many precious memories for me." They loaned us a 1910 Center school picture that appeared in the March 1978 issue. Bringing back memories of the old days appears to be a tonic that "spruces up the ole frame" as they review the happy childhood period that had so many enjoyable moments still clinging tenaciously in our minds.

WHAT
OTHER

READERS WROTE



From Florence and Edward Landry of Fresno, Cal.: We received the Crimpville Comments and found it very interesting.---We got our marriage license from Percy Burr, who was Town Clerk at that time, 1916, and were married in Franklin." They mention seeing the colored cavalry when they went through Franklin to Bellingham. Recalls that the officers were white, however. Also saw the 20 mule Borax team (see the June '77 issue) but in this particular team there were two horses on the wagon tongue instead of mules. On trips, mules would die and had to be replaced with horses as they were more readily available. They recall seeing the train stop by the Union Street Cemetery in Franklin to feed the animals and the men. We know the thrill of seeing that mule train with its huge wagons carrying Borax samples. Those were the good old days!

---and from Anna and Leon Gadoury of West Warwick, R.I. : "We are still enjoying the Crimpville Comments--." Anna finds the Comments as being very special to her because "Ed" Sawyer, who started the paper, is her brother.

We received a very nice congratulatory letter from Brud O'Neil of the Dept. of Elder Affairs for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This March letter requested that he also be placed on our mailing list so that he can see what we are doing for the "Elders".

"Good Ole Noah"

He had plenty of help to get an assortment of living things on his huge ship but as for getting some of them off--well, that was another problem. Some liked the service so well that--why leave? Anyway Noah ordered all his guests to "go forth, be fruitful and multiply". He was provoked when two snakes refused to leave and declined the "invitation", "Why?" he asked. The stubborn snakes retorted, "We're adders!" (Gotcha!)

Little Orphan Annie

By James Whitcomb Riley

Little Orphan Annie's come to our house to stay.

An' wash the cups and saucers up, and brush the crumbs away

An' shoo the chickens off the porch, an' dust the hearth, an' sweep

An' make the fire, an' bake the bread, an' earn her board an' keep;

An' all us other children, when the supper things is done,

We set around the kitchen fire an' has the mostest fun

A list 'in' to the witch tales 'at Annie tells about,

An' the Gobble-uns 'at gits you Ef you don't watch out.

One't they was a little boy wouldn't say his prayers

An' when he went to bed at night, away up the stairs.

His mammy heerd him holler, an' his daddy heerd him bawl.

An' when they turn't the kivvers down, he wasn't there at all:

An' they seeked him in the rafter room, an' cubby-hole, an' press,

An' seeked him up the chimbley-flue, an' ever'wheres, I guess;

But all they ever found was his pants an' roundabout

An' the Gobble-uns 'll git you Ef you don't watch out.

An' one time a little girl 'ud allus laugh and grin,

An' make fun of erer'one, an' all her blood-and-kin:

An' one't when they was "company" an' ole folks was there,

She mocked 'em and shocked 'em, an' said she didn't care.

An' thist as she kicked her heels, an' turn't to run an' hide,

They was two great Big Black Things a-standin' by her side.

An' they snatched her through the ceilin' 'afore she knowed what she's about!

An' the Gobble-uns 'll git you Ef you don't watch out!

An' Little Orphan Annie says, when the blaze is blue,

An' the lampwick sputters, an' the wind goes woo-woo,

An' you hear the crickets quit, an' the moon is gray.

An' the lightnin' bugs in dew is all quenched away.

You better mind yer parents and yer teachers fond and dear,

An' churish them 'at loves you, an' dry the orphan's tear,

An' help the pore an' needy ones 'at clusters all about.

Er the Gobble-uns 'll git you Ef you don't watch out!



1. Mary Melnik
2. William Foley
3. Raymond Bennett
4. Joseph Policks
5. Lucy Radlo
6. Jeanette Foley
7. Mary Warren
8. Gordon Dore
9. Helen Stockton
10. Doris Gadoury
11. Benjamin Bennett
12. Jennie Jastzemski

13. Antoinette Fougere
14. Marion Mellor
15. David O'Rourke
16. Bernard Pleau
17. Margaret Naughton
18. Madeline Blaco
19. Stanley Chase
20. Evangeline Darmetko
21. Gladys Tebo
22. Joseph Gallagher
23. John Callahan
24. Anita Pleau

25. Helen Janisqueska
26. Rita Rivard
27. Abbey Fagan
28. William Dane
29. Edward Sawyer
30. Edward Lipsett
31. Irene Michalowski
32. Eleanor O'Rourke
33. Robert Rivard
34. Margaret Hall
35. Cornelius Dore

Up to 1855 this was listed as District # 9. In 1866 this was changed to District #5 as the school up near Chestnut Street closed.



This view is of the first school in the Center and was located as a one room building near Main and Common streets and west of the police station.

It was sold to Rev. Joseph T. Massey in 1873 when a new two story building was erected further down on Common Street.. He paid \$209.87 for it and moved it down to the corner of Mill street where a second story was added.

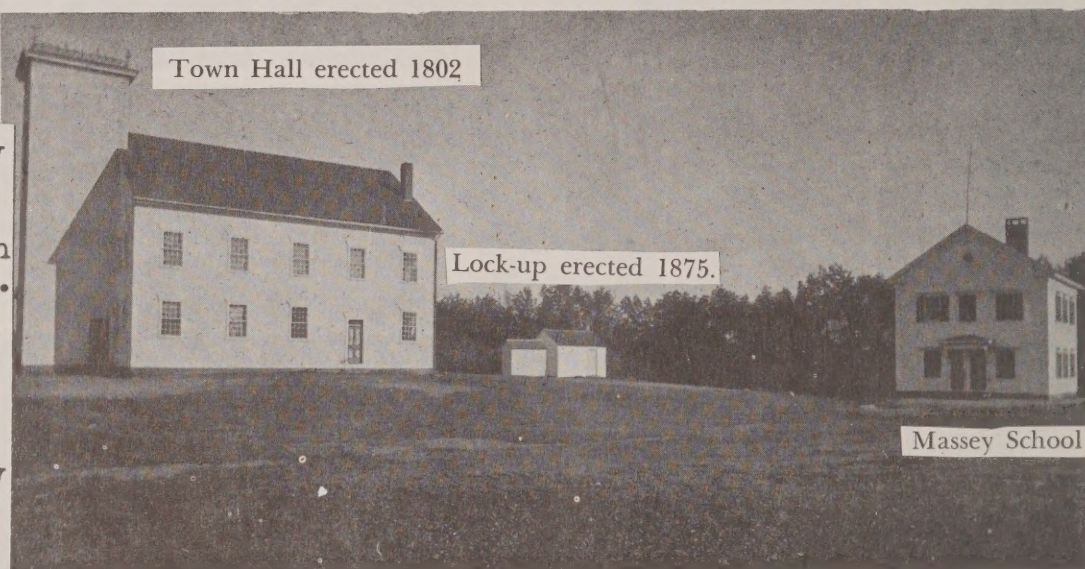
Sometime after 1830 the school was moved down into the present school area. This one room building had all eight grades in it.

View below shows the new 1873 building that Ichabod Cook built for \$2600.00. Total cost \$3191.24

The school was listed as "Grammar" and "Primary" in 1877. In 1887 the school was named "MASSEY" in honor of Rev. Joseph T, Massey, Pastor of the First Baptist Church and prominent town official.

In 1890 they installed heat and ventilation at a cost of \$253.23.

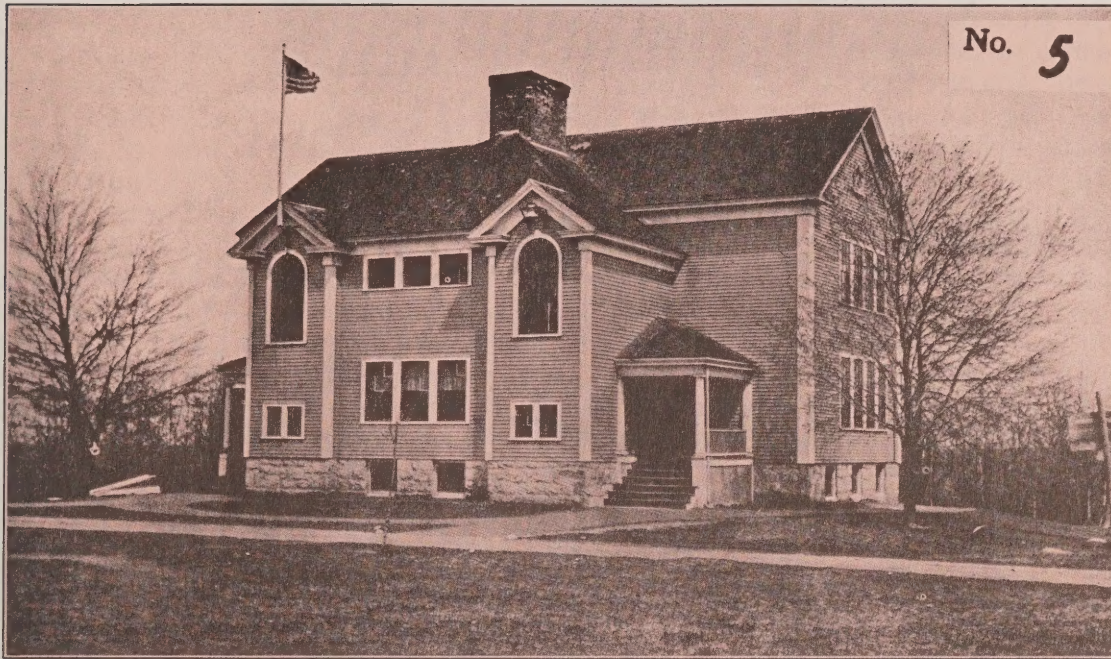
From 1873-1877 only one room was used. In fall 1877 thru spring of 1884 both rooms had teachers. School was "ungraded" again in fall of 1884. (one room) Jennie Whitney, daughter of town clerk Henry Whitney taught here 1890-1891.



There was a three year High School in the upper room, 1894-1895. Then it was reduced to a two year class and in 1899 this was dropped. In 1898 the first floor had five grades then the second floor had the other three plus the two year High School pupils.

In 1901 \$13,000.00 was voted to remodel the "Massey" school and to move and remodel the one in North Bellingham by adding two more rooms to each. Sidney Nason moved both buildings on to cellar foundations constructed by Cenedella Brothers. Otis Whitney and Son contracted to build both for the sum of \$9100.31. Land was bought in North Bellingham for \$300.00 from Daniel Dee. Total cost was \$13,225.56. Interest amounted to \$225.70 so that left \$.14 balance ! In 1902 the common was graded. Three grades each were in the Center three rooms. Later the fourth room was used as a library. The old school bell was removed in 1977 and is on display in the new Town hall annex. It is dated 1891. Some of the rooms at present are used by the Police department and the school department.

District Schools



No. 5

SCHOOLHOUSE AT THE CENTER AND AT NORTH BELLINGHAM

Crimpsville District School was established in 1829 by an order from the Board of Selectmen, Hamblet Barber, Jr., John Cooke and Elijah Fairbanks although Rev. Abial Fisher, Jr. refers to one already there in 1822. This order was dated Feb. 18, 1829 and a lease for the land to set the building on was made on Sept. 1, 1829 from Eliab Wight for \$5.00. We have the two original documents. The Prudential Committee was obligated on the first of May to list the number of scholars in their district and make return to the town clerk before the first of June, annually.

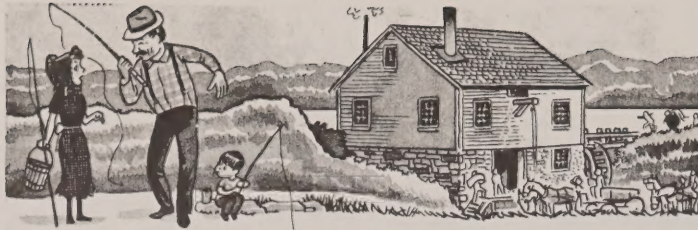


No. 3

This stone wall is still here.

Courtesy of Charlotte Rhodes.

They also report how much money they had expended, how long their school was kept, how much they paid their teacher per month, how much for board, per week and the amount paid for wood and also whether the school was taught by male or female. It can clearly be seen that each district was quite independent. With this smaller control better schooling could be provided. The building stood at the corner of Pony Court and North Main. In the 1900's it was moved further up on North Main street. West side. It was named the "Quinobequin" school in 1889. (Original name of the Charles River, meaning--"Winding or Snake River.") Closed in 1897. In 1902 Henry Whitney paid \$12.50 for the building and made it into a dwelling. A local resident lived there for a while. Later it was torn down and is no more. Lottie (Clark) Rhodes attended school here.

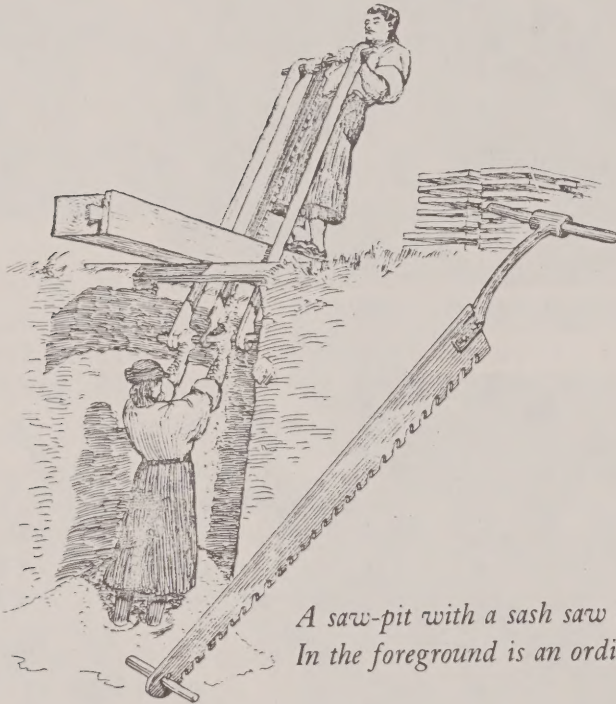


THE OLD MILL

I REMEMBER

SAW-PIT + SAWMILL + CORN MILL

Guest Editor- S. Keighley, Wrentham.



*A saw-pit with a sash saw in use.
In the foreground is an ordinary pit saw*

On our left we see an old fashioned two man saw and a common type pit where this laborious task was undertaken.

"During the first few years the new settlers at Plymouth had to be content with sawing boards and planks by hand with the pitsaw, this was slow and tiresome work. A piece of timber hewn square with an axe was placed on supports across a deep pit. The sawyer who guided the saw along a chalk line stood on the timber above the ground. The pitman worked below in a shower of sawdust pulling the saw on the downward stroke. So from this the millwrights who came over later, seeing the great potential in the rivers and streams, water power, set to work and created the water powered pit saw.

I shall attempt to explain the early mechanical pitsaw, sometimes known as the "whipsaw" or "up and down saw". The first water powered sawmill in New England was built at Plymouth around 1637. John Jenney built the first water powered corn grist mill in 1636 in New England. Shortly after the records show that he built a sawmill on the same site. Soon water powered pitsaw mills were being built all over New England as the early settlers fanned out seeking homesteads. This type of pitsaw was used for over one hundred years then around 1840 the circular saw replaced it.

The sawmill was a long narrow building with a track of two wooden rails running down its center. The carriage holding the log to be sawed slid along this track. The heavy steel saw blade had coarse teeth and was six or seven feet long. It was held tight in a wooden frame called a "sash" which slid up and down between two grooved posts.

The water wheel was directly below the saw and a special type was used on New England sawmills. This was called a "flutter wheel". It was regulated to drive the saw up and down 120 times per minute. This speed was obtained without the use of special gearing and required a wheel of small diameter especially when the waterfall was low. The water wheel was no more than two and a half or three feet in diameter by six or more feet long when used where there was a fall of six to eight feet of water.

A large log about fifteen inches in diameter, having at both ends a shaft

which was set in bearings on each side of the stream, became the axle. Arranged around this log were short stubby spokes which held the blades of the wheel. Water from the falls was thrown against the lower blades in a long narrow jet of two to three inches thick extending the full length of the blades. The blades cut through this water jet causing the wheel to turn and made a noise similar to a fluttering bird, thus the name "flutter wheel" evolved. A shaft extended out from one end of the wheel to which a crank was attached. A long slender piece of wood connected the crank with the bottom of the saw frame. This connecting rod was called a "pitman" after the sawyer who stood at the bottom of the pit when boards were sawed by hand. The saw went up and down once for every revolution of the wheel with about a two foot stroke. In order to advance the log after each downstroke there was a rack wheel, a gear that meshed with steel notches set along the underside of the carriage. This was adjustable. When the saw reached the end of a cut provision was made for the carriage to return for another cut and so on. In the early days this was done by hand or with weights attached to ropes. Later a gear called a "gig wheel" was used to return the log for the next pass. This was powered by a separate wheel called a "tub wheel."

You are invited to refer to Edward Hamiltons book, "The Village Mill in Early New England" published by Sturbridge Village, Mass. for more details and description of the operation of this up and down sawmill."

The corn or grist mill was operated with a constant speed wheel that was powered from water that fell on the wheel creating a large volume of water by weight held in each "bucket" arrangement around it and as it rotated water was drained out of each bucket when it reached the bottom. Thus the constant speed was achieved. The shaft from the water wheel extended into the mill, where through a set of wooden gears transferred the rotation to the moveable grinding wheel of stone. The upper and lower stones were set very close to each other so that as whole grain was fed into them it would be ground into a fine powder while the stones were turning.

Looking at the 1830 map we note that many up and down sawmills were in operation in Bellingham as well as grist mills. On the Charles river, "Quinobequin", there were one of each at what later became Box Pond-- home of our famous "Bellingham Navy Yard". Over in Caryville across from the factory off Pearl Street there were one of each. On Stall Brook there were both types near Hartford Avenue across from the Baptist Church. Joel Crooks had three sawmills off Lake street on a brook that flows into Peters River. There is still part of a small pond visible off Lake street as well as a sluice way that Crooks used to bring the water to his mill near the road. If only there was some way to restore at least one of these old mill sites so that local children could see it in operation once again with the large saw going up and down as it cuts a board or plank for use in building a home after the old style of construction. Reading in a book with pictures does not compare at all with seeing children watching every move and action with eager eyes drinking in the unforgettable scene.. Where small grist mills are now available for the home, maybe, someone will build a large one and then go on to a sawmill to offset the high cost of commercial products and go back to "the good old days" ?

Looking at the 1858 map there is just one sawmill off Lake Street. One sawmill at Box Pond. The grist mill was moved to the new pond site off Mill street near the shoddy mill. The grist and sawmill are still on Stall Brook and only a sawmill is now in Caryville. It is possible that these sawmills had converted to the new circular saws. A visit to Sturbridge Village to view these mills in operation is suggested.

They ought to call you
Birdie for you're pigeon-
toed, and your mother calls
you a goose and you're
looking for some bird to
feather your nest, and you
have a bill with everybody.
How do you expect to keep
on the straight path when
you can't go straight on
your feet. Better have
some heel plates put on
your shoes and shake that
happy-go-fetchy walk of
yours. Advice:-A man
judges a woman "on the
hoof" so you better train
your dogs in the right
direction. 1912

POETRY

Editor: Ernie Taft

The Following Rhymes Were
Taken From Old Post Cards

Submitted By
Jerry Plouffe

The fish yer catch yerself is best,
There aint none ever match'em
It's easy 'nough ter git a bite,
But awful hard ter catch 'em.
1910 L.A.Davis



SHINING-EYES: THIS
HEART'S A SIGN
OF THAT CONSTANT
HEART OF MINE -
STRAIGHT TO YOU. YOU
KNOW IT'S FLOWN -
PLEASE TO KEEP IT
FOR YOUR OWN!

Little Tot's Prayer

1906

My sister Sue and I, we say our prayers,
and Rocking Horse and all the dollies
they do too,
And all of us we promise to be good, so
God will try His very best to do,
For Mamma and for Papa and for Sue, and
Rocking Horse and all the dollies too.

On Friday morn we take a broom, Our Mama says we must be clean,
We sweep and scrub each room; And not a speck of dust be seen;

We are the Sunbonnet Twins, you see,
And we are as good as we can be. 1910